United States to the building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Robert C. Weaver Federal Building''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. What is the order of business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a period of morning business with a 5-minute limitation.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent to address the Senate for 25 minutes in morning business.

Mr. BYRD. Reserving the right to object, I do not intend to, I think that I addressed the Chair ahead of the other Senator, but I wouldn't challenge the Chair on that point. I know the Chair has the discretion to recognize whomever he hears first, but I would like to make a statement.

Mr. ALLARD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BYRD. Yes.

Mr. ALLARD. How much time does the Senator need for his morning business remarks?

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator. I will require 20 or 25 minutes. But I will await my turn. I thank the Senator from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BYRD. No objection.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from West Virginia for yielding. I was in the Chair, and I had the podium put up much earlier this morning, but because a colleague next to me was going to speak, he wanted it removed.

Mr. BYRD. I didn't understand the Senator.

Mr. ALLARD. I had requested that my podium be put up on the Senate floor at 10 o'clock this morning when I was presiding so that I could be in proper order to be recognized as soon as I got out of the Chair. I certainly didn't intend to create a problem for the Senator from West Virginia. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Mr. BYRD. If the Senator will yield, I have no problem. The Senator is not creating a problem for me. I just call attention to the rules, that the Presiding Officer recognize the first person who addresses the Chair seeking recognition. I have no quarrel with the Chair. I have been in the Chair many times, and sometimes it is a little difficult to really determine which Senator spoke first. I just wanted to establish again—and once in awhile we have to do this—that it is a matter of following the rules of recognition, and that it doesn't matter what Senator came before or what Senator is seen standing first, or what Senator may have his name on a list at the desk. I do not recognize a list at the desk. Never have. I try to stick to the rules. I thank the Senator. I know I have delayed his speech.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his comments, and I respect the Senator.

COMMENDING SENATOR KYL ON HIS SPEECH ON THE RUMSFELD REPORT

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, first of all, I want to recognize and commend the Senator from Arizona, who spoke earlier today in morning business, for his good comments regarding the Rumsfeld report. Senator JOHN KYL has taken a particular interest in that report. I wanted to take a moment to recognize how important I think that report is. I think he was right-on in his comments. I think this Congress and this administration ought to look very seriously at the contents of that report. I serve on the Intelligence Committee with the Senator from Arizona and am privy to the same information to which he is privy.

EMPLOYEES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, during the 105th Session of Congress, my colleagues and I are addressing a broad range of high tech issues, including military, civilian, and commercial space issues. The industry supporting high technology products and services has become extremely important to our nation, and particularly in my home state of Colorado.

Today I would like to take a look at the high-tech industry through global, national, state, and local perspectives, and relate the broader examples to Colorado. Colorado is a microcosm of the nation when you look at high-tech and the future of the industry. The prosperity, trends, and needs within the Colorado community are prime examples of what the entire nation is faced with.

The growth-inducing power of technology at the industry level has been astonishing. In the United States, research-intensive industries, such as aerospace, chemicals, communications, computers, pharmaceuticals, scientific instruments, semiconductors, and software-have been growing approximately twice the rate of the U.S. economy as a whole the past two decades. The high-tech world has also become extremely competitive. High-tech firms are now facing global competition, regional competition, and competition for jobs. There is every reason to believe that this trend will continue for at least the next decade.

As competition increases locally and globally, we must field an educated workforce that can also be competitive. America's future economy depends on sustaining a competitive edge through greater development and knowledge. But there is growing concern that America is not prepared for this new economy.

I would like to share some startling statistics revealing the serious lack of education in this country.

Forty percent of our 8 year-olds cannot read.

A Department of Education study concludes that 90 million adult Americans have limited information and quantitative skills. According to the American Society for Training and Development's 1997 ''State of the Industry Report,'' 50 percent of organizations now have to provide employee training in basic skills.

U.S. students do not perform well in comparison with students in other countries. According to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study—a study of half a million children in 41 countries—U.S. eighth-graders had average mathematics scores that were well below those of 20 other countries. Although U.S. eighth-graders performed better in science, they were still outperformed by students in nine other countries.

We are experiencing phenomenal growth in jobs for highly skilled information technology workers, yet there are mounting reports that industry is having great difficulty recruiting adequate numbers of workers with the skills in demand.

We, as a society, need to find ways to counter these serious problems and work towards filling all of our employment needs.

Due to increasing global competitiveness, our economy is creating millions of new jobs—more than 15 million new jobs since 1993. Employees are in demand due to this increased competitiveness, and of the 10 industries with the fastest employment growth from 1996–2006, computer and data processing services are number one on the list, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Report of December 1997. In this field alone, there were 1. 2 million jobs in the United States in 1996. This number is projected to rise to 2.5 million jobs in 2006. That represents a 108 percent increase in the next 8 years.

Of the 10 occupations with the fastest employment growth from 1996–2006, the top three occupations have some connection to the high tech industry. Database administrators, computer support specialists, and computer scientists had a population of 212,000 jobs in 1996, and are projected to be needed in 461,000 jobs in 2006, a 118 percent change. Computer engineers will see a 109 percent increase in jobs and systems analysts a 103 percent increase by the year 2006.

This trend is representative of the high-tech employment needs of Colorado. We are facing a problem as the need for technical bachelors' degrees rises, because the number of students entering this field is not increasing at a rate to meet this need. In addition, the science and math scores needed to pursue technical degrees at higher education institutions are not being met by more and more students every year.

If the trend continues as we expect it to, we will see an increasing lack of skilled employees to meet the industry's demand. The consequences of not filling these jobs could mean several things. One being that high-tech industry in the United States will not be globally competitive. Another being